



Climbing iron gaff pierces 11kV cable termination

Whilst work was being undertaken to replace one of two 11kV cable terminations that had failed on a free-standing transformer pole, a linesman inadvertently put one of his climbing irons into a healthy, isolated 11kV cable whilst manoeuvring on and around the pole.

It is acceptable to use climbing irons to access and work on wooden poles, but this Safety Bulletin serves to remind relevant staff that when accessing the work, always consider the hierarchy of access methods, as there may be a more suitable method for the task at hand.



Learning Points and Recommendations

1. The first consideration shall be to use a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)
2. If this is not reasonably practicable, then consideration shall be given to using an approved ladder
3. If neither of these methods are reasonably practicable, then climbing irons and approved personal fall arrest equipment shall be used

Fortunately, on this occasion no injuries occurred due to the cable being isolated and earthed. However, if any circumstances arise where you are unable to carry out work within an approved technique, **STOP** work immediately and seek further advice from your Line Manager, Supervisor or Health and Safety Advisor.

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